

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the application be reconsidered in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. In the Office Action, dated September 23, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 7, 8, 10-12 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,475,890 (hereinafter "YU"). Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4-6, 9, 13-16 and 18-20.

By way of this amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 12 and 17 to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claims 4, 13 and 18, respectively. Applicants have further amended claims 5, 14, and 19 to improve form and canceled dependent claims 4, 13 and 18. New claim 21 has been added. No new matter has been added by way of the present amendment. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejection of pending claims 1-3, 7, 8, 10-12 and 17 is respectfully requested in view of the amendments above and the following remarks.

In paragraph 3, the Office Action rejects pending claims 1-3, 7, 8, 10-12 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by YU. As set forth above, Applicants have amended claims 1, 12 and 17 to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claims 4, 13 and 18, respectively, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. Applicants submit that the present amendment places claims 1, 12 and 17 into immediate condition for allowance. Claims 2, 3 and 5-11 depend from claim 1. Claims 14-16 depend from claim 12. Claims 19 and 20 depend from claim 17. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 2, 3, 5-11, 14-16, 19 and 20 are allowable for at least the reasons that claims 1, 12 and 17 are allowable.

New claim 21 includes the subject matter of claim 9, which the Office Action indicated as being allowable. New claim 21, therefore, should also be in immediate condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Harrity & Snyder, L.L.P.

By: Glen Snyder
(Reg. No. 41,428)
for Tony M. Cole
Registration No. 43,417

Date: October 18, 2004

Harrity & Snyder, L.L.P.
11240 Waples Mill Road
Suite 300
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
Main: (571) 432-0800
Direct: (386) 575-2713

Customer Number: **45114**